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Immigrant detentions soar despite Biden's campaign promises

Associated Press

WINNFIELD, La. (AP) — Alexander Martinez says he fled from homophobia, government persecution and the notorious MS-13 gang in El Salvador only to run into abuse and harassment in America's immigration detention system.

Since crossing the border illegally in April, the 28-year-old has bounced between six different facilities in three states. He said he contracted COVID-19, faced racist taunts and abuse from guards and was harassed by fellow detainees for being gay.

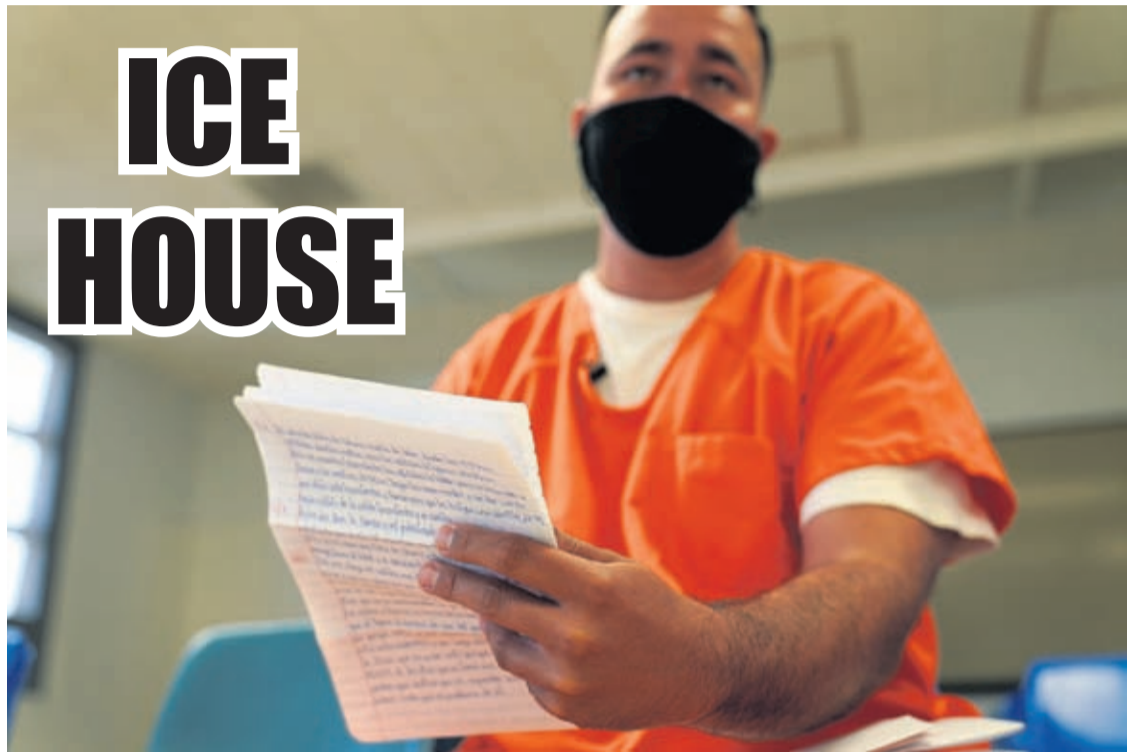
"I find myself emotionally unstable because I have suffered a lot in detention," Martinez said last week at Winn Correctional Center in Louisiana. "I never imagined or expected to re-

ceive this inhumane treatment."

He's among a growing number of people in immigration detention centers nationwide, many of whom, like Martinez, have cleared their initial screening to seek asylum in the U.S.

The number of detainees has more than doubled since the end of February, to nearly 27,000 as of July 22, according to the most recent data from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. That's above the roughly 22,000 detained last July under then-President Donald Trump, though it's nowhere close to the record in August 2019, when the number of detainees exceeded 55,000, ICE data shows.

Continued on next page



Immigration detainee Alexander Martinez shows his handwritten notations of allegations of abusive treatment, as he speaks during an interview with The Associated Press inside the Winn Correctional Center in Winnfield, La., Friday, July 30, 2021.

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Continued from front

The rising detentions is a sore point for President Joe Biden's pro-immigration allies, who hoped he would reverse his predecessor's hardline approach. Biden campaigned on ending "prolonged" detention and use of private prisons for immigration detention, which house the majority of those in ICE custody.

"We're at this really strange moment with him," said Silky Shah, executive director of Detention Watch Network, which advocates for ending immigration detention outright. "There's still time to turn things around, but his policies so far haven't matched his campaign rhetoric."

In May, the Biden administration terminated contracts with two controversial ICE detention centers — one in Georgia and another in Massachusetts — getting praise from advocates who hoped it would be the start of a broader rollback.

But no other facilities have lost their ICE contracts, and Biden has proposed funding for 32,500 immigrant detention beds in his budget, a modest decrease from 34,000 funded by Trump.

A White House spokesman said Biden's budget reduces the number of ICE detention beds and shifts some of their use to processing immigrants for parole and other alternatives. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a recent congressional hearing that he's "concerned about the overuse of detention" and pledged to continue to review problematic facilities.

The rising number of asylum-seekers detained for prolonged periods is among the most concerning developments, said Heidi Altman, policy director at the National Immigrant Justice Center.

The number of detainees who have passed their initial asylum screening has leapt from around 1,700 in April to 3,400 in late July, making up about 13% of all detainees, according to the most recent ICE data. "By ICE's own policy, these are people that shouldn't be in detention any lon-



Allison Cullen, of Brockton, Mass., left, displays a family photo on her phone that shows her husband Flavio Andrade Prado, top, their son Gabriel Andrade-Cullen, bottom left, and their daughter Saoirse Andrade-Cullen, bottom right, Thursday, July 22, 2021, at their home in Brockton.

Associated Press

ger," Altman said, citing ICE's process for paroling asylum-seekers until a judge decides their case. ICE officials declined to comment.

Martinez, the Salvadoran national, cleared his initial screening in May, which determines whether an asylum-seeker has a "credible fear" of persecution in their homeland.

But his lawyers say ICE is keeping him detained because it wrongly believes he's a member of the MS-13 gang.

Martinez says he fled El Salvador after he and his family received death threats because he testified against the gang in the killing of one of his friends. He says investigators tried to get him to testify in other gang-related murders but he was reluctant because he had not witnessed those crimes. "I was very scared," Martinez said. "I told the investigators that I was going to leave the case. I didn't want to go through the process anymore because I don't want them to hurt

my family, let alone me."

ICE officials in New Orleans declined to comment on Martinez's case and specific concerns about treatment at the Winn prison, citing federal confidentiality rules for cases dealing with victims of violence and other crimes.

Winn, one of the nation's largest ICE detention centers, has long angered civil rights groups. The Southern Poverty Law Center in June called on the Biden administration to cancel its government contract, citing abuse, medical neglect, racism and other mistreatment at the facility, which is tucked in a dense forest in rural Louisiana and ringed by barbed wire.

An agency spokesperson said ICE generally is committed to ensuring detainees are in a safe, secure and clean environment, are provided comprehensive medical care and have their concerns and complaints addressed by staff in writing.

Immigration opponents argue that a more troubling

trend than the rise in detentions is an apparent drop-off in ICE enforcement in cities and towns.

As of last month, more than 80% of detainees had been apprehended by Border Patrol officials, and less than 20% by ICE agents, the ICE data shows. Last July under Trump, 40% of detainees were picked up by the Border Patrol, and 60% by ICE.

That means most of those in detention were apprehended trying to enter the country illegally, not from local immigration enforcement, said Andrew Arthur, a fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for lower immigration.

"We're simply not enforcing immigration law in the interior of the country," he said. Meanwhile, detainees and advocates call for closing detention facilities in favor of monitoring paroled immigrants with GPS devices and other measures.

ICE detainees at the Bergen County Jail in New Jersey filed an administrative

complaint last month with Homeland Security's civil rights office seeking an investigation into allegations including poor sanitary conditions and medical neglect during the pandemic.

"At the end of day, we're detainees, not inmates," said Jean Claude Wright, a 38-year-old native of Trinidad and former U.S. Air Force officer named in the complaint. "But this is worse than prison."

ICE detainees at the Plymouth County House of Corrections in Massachusetts similarly sent a letter to supporters in June, detailing issues like restrictions on visits. Allison Cullen says she hasn't been able to visit her husband, a Brazilian national, since before the pandemic.

The couple's youngest child was only a few months old when Flavio Andrade Prado was detained, and he hasn't seen his now-2-year-old daughter in person in months, she said.

"We're in this never-ending limbo," said Cullen, a U.S. citizen from Brockton, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Boston. "There is no easy way to talk to my kids about what's going on and when Dad is coming home."

Back in Louisiana, Martinez says he's asked to be placed in solitary confinement, fearing for his safety. Two detainees who harassed him for being gay were moved, but ICE officials later sent him to a higher-security unit where he said many gang-affiliated detainees are housed. He says he spends most of his days in his cell, with limited access to communications and recreation.

"It's really difficult and miserable, and I'm all alone all the time," Martinez said. "I'm a good person. This treatment is inhuman."

He wants to settle in San Jose, California, where a friend promised to help him find work. He wants to send money back to El Salvador — his mother has cancer and his younger sister is in college.

"I just want what everyone wants," Martinez said, "to get out, be free and help support my family." □

Oregon examines spyware investment amid controversy

By **ANDREW SELSKY**

Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The future ownership of an Israeli spyware company whose product has been used to hack into the cellphones of journalists, human rights workers and possibly even heads of state is up in the air.

Major investors in a private equity firm that has majority ownership of NSO Group, the maker of the Pegasus spyware, are in discussions about what action to take. The Oregon state employee pension fund is one of the largest investors, if not the largest, having committed \$233 million to Novalpina Capital, the private equity firm, in 2017.

Novalpina Capital has been saddled with both an internal dispute among its founding partners and an explosive report showing NSO Group's spyware has been widely misused around the globe.

Oregon State Treasury spokeswoman Rachel Wray told The Associated Press in an email Wednesday the department is get-



This Oct. 30, 2019, file photo show the Oregon State Treasury office in Tigard, Ore. Oregon was Novalpina's first major investor. This Oct. 30, 2019, file photo show the Oregon State Treasury office in Tigard, Ore. Oregon was Novalpina's first major investor.

ting involved. State officials previously said investors have limited say in private equity investments once they are completed.

"I can confirm that, consistent with our fiduciary duties to Oregon beneficiaries, and along with other limited partners, (Oregon

State) Treasury is involved in discussions related to our investment in Novalpina," Wray said Wednesday.

The development comes amid a serious disagreement among the three co-founders of London-based Novalpina Capital that, according to press re-

ports from Britain, resulted in investors moving to strip control of the fund after concluding that relations between the three had deteriorated so much that they could no longer work together.

Sky News reported the dispute was about future de-

ployment of Novalpina's 1 billion euro (\$1.18 billion) fund.

On top of that internal strife, an investigation published in July by the global media consortium Forbidden Stories showed that at least 180 journalists around the world have been selected as targets by clients of NSO Group. In one case highlighted by the Guardian, Mexican reporter Cecilia Pineda Birto was assassinated in 2017 a few weeks after his cellphone number appeared on a leaked list of more than 50,000 cellphone numbers.

French President Emmanuel Macron is one of several world leaders who may have been targeted using the spyware that is capable of checking a cellphone's emails and other data and turning on its microphone and cameras.

NSO Group denied that it has ever maintained "a list of potential, past or existing targets." In a separate statement, it called the Forbidden Stories report "full of wrong assumptions and uncorroborated theories." □

Associated Press

House lawmaker suing Pelosi over mask rule says he has COVID

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Rep. Ralph Norman, one of the three congressional Republicans suing Speaker Nancy Pelosi over fines for not wearing masks during a vote on the U.S. House floor, has contracted a breakthrough case of COVID-19, the second member of South Carolina's delegation to do so.

Norman, who has said he has been fully vaccinated since February, tweeted that he began experiencing minor symptoms of COVID-19 on Thursday, tested positive for the virus that day and would quarantine for 10 days.

Representing South Carolina's 5th District since 2017, Norman is part of a federal lawsuit against Pelosi over a mandate earlier this year that members wear masks while on the House floor.

Last week, Norman and U.S. Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia and

Thomas Massie of Kentucky sued Pelosi, seeking a determination that their \$500 fines — issued because they went maskless during a May vote — are unconstitutional and should be rescinded.

"The masking requirement was an attempt to prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, medicine, and science, despite a deep divide over these issues of opinion," lawyers for the members wrote, arguing that masks were required "in televised areas only" in the chamber.

"It has been used to force Plaintiffs and other members of the minority party to be instruments for fostering public adherence to this ideological point of view that Plaintiffs find unacceptable," they added.

The trio had challenged the fines in June, arguing that the mandate was out of sync with recent federal

guidance on face coverings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their appeal failed.

The May vote in question happened a week after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued guidance noting that "fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing."

Even after that updated CDC guidance, Dr. Brian Monahan, Congress' attending physician, wrote that "mask requirement and other guidelines remain unchanged until all Members and floor staff are fully vaccinated."

The mask requirement was lifted June 11 but has since been revived because of a resurgence of the coronavirus. As cases of the virus increase, the CDC has updated its recommendations to include a return to masking indoors, even for



Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C., speaks at a news conference held by members of the House Freedom Caucus on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 29, 2021, to complain about Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif. and masking policies.

Associated Press

fully vaccinated individuals.

Recent analysis has shown that breakthrough cases of COVID-19, with mild or no symptoms, still remain rare, but Norman is the second South Carolina Republican this week to report one.

On Thursday, Sen. Lindsey Graham told The Associ-

ated Press that he was improving after a handful of "pretty tough days," suffering he said he was sure would have been worse had he not been vaccinated. He also told AP he has urged former President Donald Trump to "speak up" and urge his supporters to get the vaccine. □

U.S. to probe Phoenix police over excessive force allegations

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO** and **BOB CHRISTIE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Thursday said it was launching a widespread probe into the police force in Phoenix to examine whether officers have been using excessive force and abusing people experiencing homelessness.

The investigation into the City of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Department is the third sweeping civil investigation into a law enforcement agency brought by the Justice Department in the Biden administration and comes as the department has worked to shift its priorities to focus on policing and civil rights. Few such investigations were opened during the Trump administration.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the probe will also examine whether police have engaged in discriminatory policing practices and will work to determine if officers have retaliated against people engaged in protected First Amendment activities.

In June, the top prosecutor in Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix, permanently dismissed charges that included gang allega-



Attorney General Merrick Garland, accompanied by Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Kristen Clarke, right, speaks at a news conference at the Department of Justice in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, to announce that the Department of Justice is opening an investigation into the city of Phoenix and the Phoenix Police Department.

Associated Press

tions against more than a dozen people arrested at an October 2020 protest against police brutality.

The move came amid complaints from civil rights advocates that Phoenix police and prosecutors were pursuing gang charges as part of abusive political prosecutions intended to silence dissent and scare protesters.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, a Democrat, hailed

the Justice Department investigation and said it will help with ongoing police reform measures she has been pushing since taking office in 2019.

"Public safety reform is an ongoing process in Phoenix, and now, with the help of the USDOJ, this robust program will continue," Gallego said in a statement.

The city also plans to start a new program this year to respond to mental health

calls by placing behavioral health professionals in the field. The city also has a new office of police accountability that is charged with independently investigating allegations of wrongdoing by officers.

That office may be hamstrung, however, by a new state law signed by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey that limits civilian review boards like the one Phoenix has set up.

City Councilman Sal DiCiccio, a frequent defender of Phoenix police, said the department "has been under extreme attack by activists bent on defunding the police."

"I welcome another set of eyes to see what we already know: that we have a department staffed by dedicated individuals who go to great lengths to protect our community, and do so honorably and fairly," he said in a statement.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona, which has sued Phoenix police in the past for actions against protesters, said the investigation was needed to force the department to change.

"This is not a case of a few bad apples — Phoenix PD has deep-rooted, systemic problems with the way it treats community members," Victoria Lopez, the group's advocacy and legal director, said in a statement.

Part of the investigation will also examine whether police officers have been violating the rights of people who are experiencing homelessness by "seizing and disposing of their belongings in a manner that violates the Constitution," Garland said. □

Illinois sees record pot sales, with boost from Lollapalooza



In this July 29, 2021 file photo, fans gather and cheer on day one of the Lollapalooza music festival at Grant Park in Chicago.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Illinois dispensaries sold a record \$127.8 million in recreational marijuana in July, with a big boost coming from out-of-state fans who con-

verged on Chicago for the Lollapalooza music festival. The month's sales were 10% higher than May's record of \$116.4 million, which were slightly higher than June's

\$115.6 million, according to a monthly report by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Business boomed at Chicago-area cannabis dispensaries during the four-day Lollapalooza festival, which ended Sunday and which returned after last year's event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Because recreational marijuana was legalized in Illinois in January 2020, pot was legal in the state during Lollapalooza for the first time in the festival's 30-year history. Although it's illegal to smoke or otherwise consume the drug in public or around anyone young-

er than 21 years old, the large crowds at Grant Park boosted sales by as much as 50% at nearby dispensaries in River North and the West Loop, operators told the Chicago Tribune.

"We saw thousands of festivalgoers over the weekend at our River North store, making it our biggest weekend to date," said Jason Erkes, spokesman for Chicago-based Cresco Labs, whose Sunnyside Dispensary in River North was the closest to the festivities.

In July, Illinois' 110 dispensaries sold a record 2.8 million recreational weed products. State residents spent about \$85 million, while sales to out-of-state customers topped \$42 million,

up 16% from June, according to the state.

"Summer tourism and the Lollapalooza attendees were strong contributors to July's out-of-state sales," Erkes said. Illinois is one of 18 states that have legalized recreational marijuana use, which is still illegal under federal law. Through July, the state has generated \$753 million in recreational cannabis sales, which is more than all of last year. Total sales reached \$1.03 billion last year, including \$669 million in recreational weed and more than \$366 million in medical marijuana sales. Illinois has not yet released its medical marijuana sales figures for July. □

Australia to spend \$813M to address Indigenous disadvantage

By ROD McGUIRK

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia's government on Thursday pledged 1.1 billion Australian dollars (\$813 million) to address Indigenous disadvantage, including compensation to thousands of mixed-race children who were taken from their families over decades.

The AU\$378.6 million (\$279.7 million) to be used to compensate the so-called Stolen Generations by 2026 is the most expensive component of the package aimed at boosting Indigenous living standards in Australia.

The compensation of up to AU\$75,000 (\$55,400) in a lump sum plus up to \$AU7,000 (\$5,200) for expenses such as psychological counselling will only be available to mixed-race children who had been under direct federal government control in the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Jervis Bay Territory.

Most members of the Stolen Generations had been under state government



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison delivers his statement on the Closing the Gap Implementation Report at Parliament House in Canberra, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

control when they were separated from their Indigenous mothers under decades of assimilation policies that ended as recently as the 1970s.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the compensation was a recognition of the harm caused by forced

removal of children from families.

"This is a long-called-for step recognizing the bond between healing, dignity, and the health and well-being of members of the Stolen Generations, their families and their communities," Morrison told Parlia-

ment.

"To say formally not just that we're deeply sorry for what happened, but that we will take responsibility for it," Morrison added.

Pat Turner, the Northern Territory-based Indigenous chief executive officer of the National Aboriginal

Community-Controlled Health Organisation, welcomed the compensation, which was recommended in 1997 by a government inquiry into the Stolen Generations.

"Many of our people have passed, including my mother, so it's a sad day for those who have passed, but it's a good day for those who have survived," Turner said. Turner's mother Emma Turner had been taken from her own mother in the 1920s and they didn't reunite until the 1970s.

"It will never replace growing up with family, you can never replace that," she added. "I hope this will give some relief to the survivors of the Stolen Generations." Australian states have legislated their own compensation plans for Stolen Generations survivors between 2008 and last year.

But Queensland and Western Australia, states with some of the country's largest proportions of Indigenous people within their populations, do not have specific Indigenous compensation plans. □

2 Russian news sites, legal aid group, close under pressure

By DARIA LITVINOVA

MOSCOW (AP)

— Two Russian news outlets and a legal aid group backed by a leading Kremlin critic shut down Thursday after authorities blocked their websites, the government's latest moves targeting independent media, opposition supporters and human rights activists ahead of Russia's September parliamentary election.

The Otkrytie Media and MBKh Media news sites, as well the Pravozashchita Otkrytki legal aid group, announced they were ceasing operations, citing reports that their websites on Wednesday night were blocked over their alleged ties to organizations declared "undesirable" in Russia — a label that outlaws an organization and exposes its members, supporters and partners to prosecution.

All three organizations are

backed by Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a Russian tycoon who moved to London after spending a decade in prison in Russia on charges widely seen as political revenge for challenging President Vladimir Putin's rule. Russian authorities have declared a number of organizations linked to Khodorkovsky "undesirable."

Otkrytie Media said in a statement Thursday that it had received a grant from Khodorkovsky but never worked with "undesirable" organizations. Still, the outlet said it would shut down as "the risks for the project's staff members are too high." MBKh Media Editor-in-Chief Veronika Kutsyllo echoed the sentiment, saying on Facebook that she wasn't "ready to endanger the freedom and lives of other people."

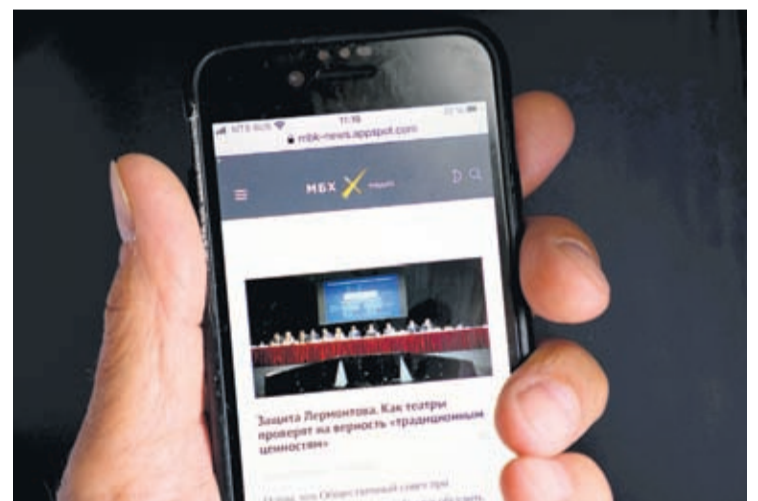
"Unfortunately, the authorities don't need media projects that are critical of

what is happening in the country. The more criticism there is, the shorter the lifespan of a project. But we at least tried," Otkrytie Media's statement read.

Lawyer Anastasia Burakova, who worked with Pravozashchita Otkrytki, told the Dozhd TV channel "there was no other option" for the group but to shut down.

Independent media, journalists, opposition supporters and human rights activists in Russia have faced increased pressure ahead of the Sept. 19 vote, which is widely seen as an important part of Putin's efforts to cement his rule before the next presidential election in 2024.

The 68-year-old Russian leader, who has been in power for more than two decades, pushed through constitutional changes last year that would potentially allow him to hold onto power until 2036.



An iPhone user reads MBKh Media news site in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

In recent months, the government has designated a number of independent media outlets and journalists as "foreign agents" — a label that implies additional government scrutiny and carries strong pejorative connotations that could discredit the recipients — and raided the homes of several prominent report-

ers. Three journalists of Otkrytie Media were labeled "foreign agents" last month. The publisher of one outlet that released investigative reports exposing alleged corruption and abuses by top officials and tycoons close to Putin was outlawed as an "undesirable" organization. □

Israel launches airstrikes on Lebanon in response to rockets

By **LAURIE KELLMAN and ZEINA KARAM**

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel on Thursday escalated its response to rocket attacks the previous day from Lebanon by launching rare airstrikes on its northern neighbor, the army and Lebanese officials said.

A statement from the Israeli military said jets struck the launch sites from which the rockets were fired, as well as an additional target used to attack Israel in the past. The military blamed the state of Lebanon for the shelling and warned "against further attempts to harm Israeli civilians and Israel's sovereignty."

The overnight airstrikes in southern Lebanon were a marked escalation at a politically sensitive time. Israel's new eight-party governing coalition is trying to keep peace under a fragile cease-fire that ended an 11-day war with Hamas' militant rulers in Gaza in May. Several incidents leading up to this week's rocket fire from Lebanon have focused attention on Israel's northern border. The



A Lebanese army soldier displays part of an Israeli missile from an airstrike in Dimashqiya farmlands, southern Lebanon, Thursday, Aug 5, 2021.

Associated Press

United States swiftly condemned the attacks on Israel.

Lebanon is mired in multiple crises, including a devastating economic and financial meltdown and a political deadlock that has left the country without a functional government for

a full year.

Lebanese President Michel Aoun said Israel's use of its air force to target Lebanese villages "is the first of its kind since 2006 and indicated the presence of aggressive, escalatory intentions" against Lebanon. In a statement, he said Leba-

non would submit a complaint to the United Nations. The commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL, Stefano Del Col, called on the parties "to act with urgency" to de-escalate tensions and prevent violations of the cessation of hostili-

ties that has been in effect since 2006.

Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah fought a devastating, monthlong war in 2006 which killed some 1,200 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and around 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers. The war failed to neutralize the group's rocket threat, and Israeli officials say the Iran-backed Hezbollah's improved missile arsenal is now capable of striking virtually anywhere in Israel.

No one has claimed responsibility for the rocket fire from Lebanon, and Hezbollah has not commented. The Hezbollah-owned Al-Manar TV reported the Israeli strikes at around 2 a.m. Thursday, saying they hit an empty area in the village of Mahmoudiya in Marjayoun district.

Avichai Adraee, the Israeli army's Arabic-language spokesman, said the Lebanese government is responsible for what happens on its territory and warned against more attacks on Israel from southern Lebanon. □

Suspected rape and killing of Indian girl triggers protests



Tina Verma, 27, a social activist, holds a placard which reads, "Hang the killers of 9-year old child" at a demonstration site outside a crematorium where a 9-year-old girl from the lowest rung of India's caste system was, according to her parents and protesters, raped and killed earlier this week, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

Associated Press

By **SHEIKH SAALIQ**
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Angry villagers in the Indian capital held a protest Thursday outside a crematorium where they say a 9-year-old girl was raped and killed earlier this week.

The protesters, sitting on a makeshift stage, held placards demanding justice for the girl, who lived nearby. The case has revived outrage over the number of gruesome sexual crimes against women in India as well the treatment of those

on the lowest rung of the country's rigid caste system, from which the girl hailed.

Four men suspected in the crime, all of them workers at the crematorium, have been arrested but have yet to be charged, said police officer Ingit Pratap Singh.

Police said the girl told her mother on Sunday that she was going to get water at a tap at the crematorium in southwest New Delhi. About 30 minutes later, police said, the crematorium's priest called the mother, who was told that her daughter had been electrocuted.

The mother was shown her daughter's body, which the suspects then cremated without calling authorities, police said.

The mother said she saw her daughter's body on the floor of the crematorium with bruises all over. She said the priest and three other men at the cremato-

rium told her not to call the police and threatened her. The mother cannot be named due to Indian law that prohibits releasing information that could identify the victims of sexual crimes.

Villagers said some of the girl's remains were saved from the crematorium.

Singh said the extent of the cremation meant a post-mortem examination was unable to establish whether the girl was raped or how she was killed.

"The cause of death is inconclusive," he said.

Police said forensic experts were testing her clothing for bodily fluids or other evidence.

The suspects are in police custody but under Indian law can't be formally charged until the police investigation is complete.

Rape and sexual violence have been under the spotlight in India since the 2012

gang rape and killing of a 23-year-old student on a New Delhi bus. The attack sparked massive protests and inspired lawmakers to order the creation of fast-track courts dedicated to rape cases and stiffen penalties for those convicted of the crime.

Four men sentenced to death for the 2012 attack were later hanged.

Nevertheless such crimes persist, and according to government data a woman is raped every 15 minutes in India.

Rights organizations say that woman who are on the lowest level of India's unforgiving Hindu caste hierarchy — known as Dalits — are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and other attacks.

They say men from dominant castes often use sexual violence as a weapon to reinforce repressive hierarchies. □

Mexico to call out national guard to protect gas trucks

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president said Wednesday he will call on the National Guard to protect gas delivery trucks after drivers and crews went on strike to protest government price controls.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he will not back down and compared the battle to his 2019 offensive against fuel thieves.

Crews that distribute LP gas in Mexico's capital went on strike Tuesday after the government imposed price controls on the fuel that most Mexicans use to cook and heat water. The crews work on commission for the distributors.

Those independent trucks and their crews blocked entrances and vandalized trucks at gas tank farms around Mexico City, saying price controls will hurt their earnings. Photos posted by local media showed masked men smashing the windows of some small gas tank trucks Tuesday to enforce the strike. Others parked their vehicles at entrances to tank farms to block them.

"Yesterday they said they could not go out (on deliveries) because they risked getting their vehicles van-



A woman places a sign that reads in Spanish "No gas" on a LP gas delivery truck in Mexico City, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021.

Associated Press

dalized," López Obrador said. "The National Guard is going to intervene to protect the distributors." López Obrador said he would consider filing criminal complaints. The leader of the striking crews later told local media they were temporarily calling off the strike, in hopes of talks with the government.

The president has said in the past he wants to set up a state-owned gas distribution company to com-

pete with the often-corrupt private tank trucks that fill roof-top gas tanks or distribute small portable gas cylinders. Distributors often short-change customers on the amount of gas they deliver. Moreover, some charge as much as 50% profits margins, contributing to gas price increases of almost 50% in the last year.

The Mexican Association of Gas Distributors said Tuesday it "distances itself from

the actions by groups of independents who work on commission, who do not hold distribution permits and who are blocking plants, preventing us from going out and working to supply homes and businesses that need gas." The association represents the owners of tank farms and some larger distribution chains that own fleets of trucks. The independents own or lease their own trucks, or run smaller opera-

tions delivering small portable LP cylinders to homes. The association said it had warned the government about "the risks and impacts implicit" in imposing price controls.

Mexico imports much of its LP gas, and international prices have risen, leading to higher costs for Mexicans. López Obrador invoked emergency powers to decree a six-month price cap.

Experts had warned that price controls announced Sunday would probably lead to shortages, because the largely private gas distributors may refuse to operate under government-imposed profit margins.

Mexico's anti-monopoly regulator criticized López Obrador's maximum prices and warned that "price regulation could have consequences unintended by the decree, like shortages of LP gas."

Experts said the proposed price cap hearkens back to decades past when Mexico's state-owned oil company Pemex imported LP gas and sold it at fixed prices to distributors. Now, private companies import much of the gas, and won't do so if they lose money on it. □

South Africans protest killings in Durban suburb in rioting

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Supporters of South Africa's leftist opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, on Thursday demonstrated against the killings of 36 people in Phoenix, a suburb of Durban, during the recent violent riots in KwaZulu-Natal province.

More than 1,000 people marched through Phoenix to hand police a statement demanding justice for the families of those who were killed in that town during the violence.

The riots in July, sparked by the imprisonment of former president Jacob Zuma, descended into widespread looting of shopping malls and retail shops across KwaZulu-Natal and spread to Gauteng, South Africa's

most populous province. More than 300 people died in the week-long riots which were quelled by the deployment of 25,000 soldiers. During the riots, racial tensions flared in Phoenix, a community predominantly of South Africans of Indian descent. Many Phoenix residents patrolled the suburb to prevent its shops and businesses from being looted and some are accused of shooting Black people they suspected of being rioters.

Earlier this week police confirmed that of the 36 killed in Phoenix, 30 were shot and others were stabbed and burned. Police confiscated 264 firearms from individuals and security companies in the area.

According to the police, 22

people have been arrested for the killings in Phoenix and have been charged with murder, attempted murder, and assault.

On Thursday, the demonstrators against the Phoenix killings observed a moment of silence and read aloud the names of those who were killed.

A leader of the demonstration, Marshall Dlamini, a member of parliament for the Economic Freedom Fighters, accused South Africa's government of allowing some members of the Indian community to inflict racist, vigilante violence on Blacks.

"They (the government) have sent police here to our march, but where were they when our people were being killed?" asked



Supporters of South Africa's leftist opposition party, the Economic Freedom Fighters, gather, in Phoenix, South Africa, Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021, during a demonstration against the killings of 36 people in Phoenix, during the recent violent riots in KwaZulu-Natal province.

Associated Press

Dlamini. He also accused police and soldiers of conducting searches for the looted goods in townships where

Black people live, but not doing so in communities with predominantly Indian and mixed-race residents. □

The government is addressing the ATV/UTV issue

ORANJESTAD – This week, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes met with different departments resorting under the Ministry of Infrastructure. In this first meeting, the Prime Minister instructed the departments to submit their proposals to address the ATVs and UTVs issue.

The departments present at the meeting were:

- Department of Public Works (DOW)
- Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP)
- Department of Technical Inspection (DTI), Police Department (KPA),
- Department of Nature and Environment (DNM)
- Department of Public Transport (DTP)

It is a known fact that these UTVs and ATVs cause harm to our nature and the com-

munity became less tolerant of this. These vehicles destroy nature in Aruba. In the past, the authorities urged the permit holders to adhere to the instructions when driving these vehicles. They made awareness videos and published articles in the media about this subject. However, the time has come to reset a few things. The aim of the government is not to exclude this kind of development. The prime minister is aware that there is a group of adventurous tourists that like to do these kinds of activities in Aruba. The Prime Minister is also aware that everyone is trying to make a living, which the Government is stimulating. However, it is imperative to recognize that it is also essential to protect what we can not recover and the damage caused by these vehicles is irreparable. Unfortunately, two weeks ago, another set of photos circulated on social media portraying unacceptable behavior with these vehicles and causing consternation.

What can be done?

The Government has already prepared the spatial development plan/spatial development plan with regulations (ROP/ROPv) which will be published on September 1, 2021. One has to be within the margins of the law to be able to regulate this. The Prime Minister urged the relevant department to brainstorm and present possible regulation solutions. The Government is aware of the different aspects of concern for each of the departments. The DTI is responsible for the inspection of all these



vehicles, the DIP is responsible for the ROP/ROPv while the DOW is responsible for the "Aruba's Outdoor Amenities Economy" which is in line with the new economic development that the Government wants to introduce. The government's starting point is the protection of nature. Now they are awaiting the proposals of the departments for a possible solution. □



Ta prohibi pa ley pa core riba duinen y santo blanco rond Aruba.

The Government of Aruba approves spaying and neutering of owned dogs

ORANJESTAD - The Government of Aruba received a request from the United Dogs Aruba Foundation to approve and cooperate with their project that will take place in October 2021 and end on World Animal Day. The foundation requested permission to spay and neuter stray dogs, just like they did in previous years.

Based on the current stray dog problem in Aruba, the number of irresponsible dog owners, and multiple cases of dog abuse and neglect of dogs and the dog law, the Government decided to exclusively approve spaying and neutering of owned dogs and not stray dogs.

People must realize that stray dogs do not fall out of the sky. They once had an owner. It is essential to turn off the tap at homes of those who like dogs but do not have the financial means of spaying or neutering their pets to stop the increase of stray dogs. It will decrease the reproduction of dogs and end the stray dog issue. After this, the focus can be on minimal and proper care of pets and to motivate pet owners to keep their pets in their yards as stated in the dog law. The United Dog Aruba Foundation works with local and international volunteers. The vets who will be performing these surgeries are also volunteers. They will spay and neutered 550 dogs in a 4 day time frame. The foundation depends on the Government for different aspects. In previous campaigns, the Government covered the expenses like the location, water, and electrical installation, the tents, fences, taxes, etc. For this year, the foundation is pending on what the Government will be covering since the Government is still in the recovery phase caused by the pandemic.

The call goes out to the community who wish to get their dogs spayed or neutered for free, to contact the United Dogs Aruba Foundation or any of the other local foundations in Aruba for registration and information on how to get your dogs selected for the procedure this year. The Government hopes that the Stimami Sterelisami Foundation will soon resume its activities and help cover some of the costs, for the Government to also approve the neutering and spaying of stray dogs in the next project of the United Dogs Aruba Foundation. □

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About Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Aruba is the smallest, driest and windiest of the three Leeward Islands of the Dutch Caribbean. Despite this, it has a surprisingly varied landscape. The island's connection, via the continental shelf, to the South American mainland means that Aruba's flora and fauna are quite different from her sister islands — Bonaire and Curaçao. Aruba's stunning geological features include grottos, caves and giant rocks (tonalites) fashioned by the elements. Aruba is famous for long sandy beaches and strong trade winds, which make the island a paradise for beach lovers and windsurfers but a challenging environment for plants and animals.

Coastal lagoons with mangrove forests and extensive and well-developed sea-grass beds at the southern part of the island are a

magnet for sea turtles, as well as an important base in the marine food chain. Covering almost one fifth of the total land area of Aruba, the Parke Nacional Arikok includes the island's highest hill, Mount Jamanota. Located on the island's windward shore, the park gives access to the rough lava hills and limestone rock formations typical of this arid island. With its fragile dry cactus forest and extensive scrublands the park is home to over 50 species of native trees and is the last protected refuge for Aruba's endemic rattlesnake, the Cascabel, and their irresistible burrowing owl, the Shoco. The park not only contains outstanding nature but also a rich cultural history. This includes a renovated farm area (cunucu) and early Arawak cave paintings, which were used as the inspiration for the park's iconic logo.

Pope's Head Cactus

Our spotlight moves to one of the Caribbean's most personable succulents, the Pope's Head Cactus (*Melocactus intortus*). Its genus name is *Melocactus*, meaning "melon cactus", referring to its short, round, watermelon-like base. The most interesting part of this plant however, is the strange, red, bristly "cap" (called a cephalium), which grows out the top of the green base and can reach heights of up to 1 m (~3.3 ft)! Using your imagination, one can really see a green "head" topped with a tall, red, clerical "hat". This cactus can be found clinging to rocks in some of the drier, less hospitable climes throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America. It's quite a common sight while hiking in the scrublands of both the Windward and Leeward islands, though different species inhabit the northern and southern ranges. This particular specimen comes to us from St. Maarten. As if its spiny hat was not enough, the pope's head cactus also sprouts tiny, fuchsia flowers from its cephalium. These flowers give way to bright pink, waxy, cone-shaped fruits. The fruits are edible and have the seedy consistency of a crunchy kiwi, though their flavor is quite light. Lovely to look at and delightful to taste, but do remember to mind their sharp spines and leave enough fruit for the plants to procreate.



The next time you are having a wander through our starkly beautiful sub-tropical dry forests, don't forget to look down and admire the quirky and stout pope's head cactus. Source: DCNA. □



Honorable guests at Aruba Beach Club

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Mr. Walter & Mrs. Janice McMann** from Florida, USA!

This lovely couple stated

that they love the island very much, especially for its picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, the good memories they always share with friends they have met in Aruba, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of The Aruba Beach Club presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Aruba Living Today, real estate mediation: We believe in building a connection and constructing a future

NOORD — “My goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch,” says Randolph Arends, owner of Aruba Living Today. Together with his business partner Berend Prenger and a dedicated team they practice what they preach: mediation in Real Estate with a high service level. “I am proud to state that so far all of my clients stayed with us. I am not selling a fairytale, in ten years of course there were challenges too but it is about how you handle those. It’s like with family, you stick together with ups and downs. But the love is there.”

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Berend is also a certified Appraisal within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. “This definitely speeds up the process of buying,” he says. This different approach of real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart and is also the reason why Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. “The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion and I can only do this from the heart.”

Testimonials

What better way to reinforce his words than sharing some of the amazing testimonials Aruba Living Today received from their clients. We made a selection for you because we lack space to publish them all.

J. 1987

“Randolph and his team helped us im-

mensely to find our dream home on Aruba. Their service is excellent, before and after buying the house. His office also helped us with financing the property.

Finding the perfect home is the goal, but what I found just as important during the whole process is Randolph's integrity. He really looks at what you need, doesn't make false claims and also advises you correctly when it is not in his own interest. This makes you feel valued and in good hands.”

vanmullem1

“Without any doubt the best real estate agent on the island! Randolph helped out buying our property on the island, representing us as a buyer. The guy knows the island and most people in Aruba what is a great help. His after sales goes way beyond expected and included services like helping getting connected to water, electricity and gas. If needed he can help you find renters for your house and managing it, again with the same service and transparency. Summarizing, the guy and his company are our eyes and ears on the island if we are not there.”

Debora Zywusko

“My husband and I have been coming to Aruba for 30 years and have dreamed about owning our own home in Aruba. I was referred to Randolph from Aruba Living Today. I am a Realtor myself in the US for 38 years, so finding the right Realtor was the key. Randolph and his team has made this process a piece of cake. His integrity and honesty has made him a success, always available when we called or wanted to meet. Not only is he our Realtor, but a new lifelong friend!!! Be sure to call him.”

Frank Stolp

“Aruba Living Today is probably the best real estate agent on the island. Randolph and his team arranged long term rental houses for us, communication with them is always correct and they respond quickly. Absolutely recommend Aruba Living Today!”

Linda Kandel

“THE BEST! No other way to describe the way



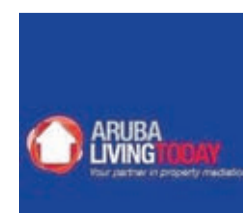
I was treated at this company. ABOVE AND BEYOND any expected services. 5 star all the way! Don't hesitate.”

The door is open

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments, magazines and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. “Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages.” Besides that Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban Real Estate Association they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured as well on television and you can find them on House Hunters, Social Media - Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper. □

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Ready to hire your first employee? Prep with these 6 steps

By ROSALIE MURPHY of NerdWallet

Despite the pandemic, the IRS received more than 7 million requests for new employer identification numbers between January 2020 and June 2021, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

As those businesses grow, many will reach an important milestone: hiring their first employees. Here are six things business owners should do first.

1. MAKE SURE YOU NEED HELP

First, look for signs that your business can't move forward without assistance.

If you're "personally at capacity" and receiving more orders than you can handle, it may be time to hire someone, says Phelan Spence, a services and financial analysis associate at JumpStart, a Cleveland-based nonprofit that works with entrepreneurs.

Hiring may also be on the horizon for business owners who are missing deadlines, fielding customer complaints or thinking about



A hiring sign is seen at a Stella's Place cafe in Des Plaines, Ill., Sunday, July 11, 2021. Americans have started millions of new businesses in the last 18 months.

Associated Press

taking on a big project.

2. KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

Before hiring full- or part-time employees, your cash flow should be steady enough to support regular paychecks.

Business owners need to plan for expenses beyond

wages, including Social Security, Medicare and payroll taxes, and, in many states, workers' compensation. Benefits like health insurance add additional costs.

At the same time, bringing in a new employee can

help you generate more revenue by expanding your capacity.

Spence says metrics like average monthly sales and average revenue per sale can help you understand how hiring someone will affect your finances and

when it's time to take that step. "(Hiring is) not necessarily tied to a date — it's really tied to hitting that number of customers or number of projects or products or services," Spence says.

3. FIND PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Outside experts can help you navigate the hiring process. That team might include an attorney, bookkeeper, accountant and HR consultant.

"Make sure that you get the advice of a professional to kind of lead you along the way," says Angel Washington, owner of Cleveland-based medical billing and coding business Consult 2 Code. "You just want to make sure you do everything right from the beginning so you don't have to go back and fix things."

Expert advice can help you stay compliant with employment law, like understanding when you can hire independent contractors and when you need employees, and making sure new hires fill out the necessary tax forms. □

Lawyers for Huawei CFO argue U.S. 'strategically crafted' case



Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Huawei, returns at B.C. Supreme Court after a break in her extradition hearing in Vancouver, British Columbia, Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021.

Associated Press

By JIM MORRIS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Lawyers for a senior Huawei executive argued in a Canadian court Wednesday that the United States "strategically crafted" a misleading record of the fraud case against her and acted "in bad faith" when presenting reasons she should be ex-

tradited.

Huawei Technologies Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, who is the daughter of the company's founder, was arrested at Vancouver's airport in 2018 at the request of the U.S., which has charged her with fraud. Her arrest infuriated Beijing, which sees her case as a political

move designed to prevent China's rise.

The U.S. accuses the Chinese communications giant of using a Hong Kong shell company called Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. It says Meng committed fraud by misleading HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Defense lawyer Mona Duckett said the U.S. omitted facts, obscured the law and "inaccurately summarized documents to support a false narrative."

The only remedy for the court is to deny the extradition request, Duckett said. Meng attended the hearing and followed the proceedings through a translator.

Over the next three weeks, Association Chief Justice Heather Holmes will hear final arguments on whether Meng should be extradited

to face trial in the United States.

Holmes likely won't make her ruling until later in the year. Whatever her decision, it will likely be appealed.

In past hearings, Meng's lawyers have argued her extraction should be halted because Canadian Border Security Agency officers detained and questioned her without a lawyer, asked questions that benefited U.S. authorities, seized her electronic devices and put them in special bags to prevent wiping, and compelled her to give up the passcodes before her official arrest.

They have also argued that comments by then-President Donald Trump showed he hoped to use Meng's arrest as part of a bargaining chip in trade negotiations with China. Soon after Meng's arrest, China arrested Canadians

Michael Spavor and Michael Kovrig in apparent retaliation and charged them with spying. Both have remained in custody with limited access to Canadian consular officials. Canadian consular officials had online visits with Kovrig on July 29 and Spavor on Tuesday, the Canadian Foreign Ministry said.

It said officials "continue to provide consular services" to the men and their families but Canadian law prevented the release of further information.

"The Canadian government remains deeply concerned by the arbitrary detention by Chinese authorities of these two Canadians since December 2018 and continues to call for their immediate release," the ministry said in an emailed statement.

Meng remains free on bail in Vancouver and is living in a mansion. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

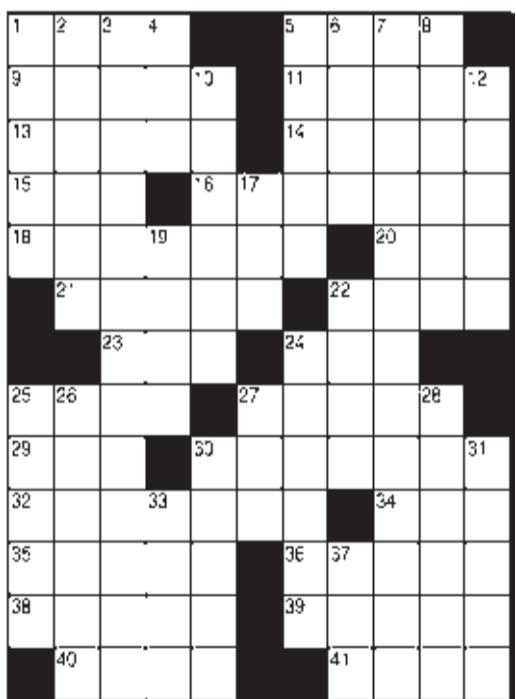
- ACROSS** 39 Suit
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 11 Love affair 1 Light
 13 Pigeon lunch
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 14 Don 3 1974
 Diego's Labelle hit
 alter ego 4 Pear-
 15 Some shaped
 amount of fruit 17 Hosp.
 16 Corrected 5 Puzzle workers 28 Juice
 18 Calls for book 19 God of choice
 20 Compete features war 30 Mating
 21 Is bold 6 "That's game
 22 U2's lead my cue!" group 31 Costly
 singer 7 Harry 24 Bamboo 33 Writer
 23 Danger Potter's eaters James
 signal nemesis 25 TV's 37 "—
 24 Bud 8 Entice Philbin Misérables"



Yesterday's answer

- 10 Inclined 26 Pal of
 12 Western Porthos
 contest 27 Espionage
 17 Hosp. org.
 19 God of choice
 war 30 Mating
 22 Rock game
 group 31 Costly
 24 Bamboo 33 Writer
 eaters James
 25 TV's 37 "—
 Philbin Misérables"



A X Y D L B A A X R
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-6

CRYPTOQUOTE

I G L P M N T G J I F , I F J F U
 M J P N , G R J G L V F E T J F M N ,
 J Y L N S C L G R Z E C N T , L P G R N
 O E P G W N T E M L E X P N F N O U
 Q X P G I M N M J F R J D N .

— Q I O N P A I Y S C I F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MOST OF US HAVE TO BE TRANSPLANTED, LIKE A TREE, BEFORE WE BLOSSOM. — LOUISE NEVELSON



This Thursday, July 29, 2021 image provided by NASA shows the 20-metric-ton (22-ton) Nauka module, also called the Multipurpose Laboratory Module as it approaches the International Space Station.

Associated Press

Impact of space station spin requires study, official says

MOSCOW (AP) — Space engineers will analyze whether a glitch that caused the International Space Station to spin out of its normal orientation could have impacted any of its systems, a Russian space official said Wednesday. Sergei Krikalev, the director of crewed space programs at the Russian space corporation Roscosmos, emphasized that last week's incident did not inflict any observable damage to the space station but he said that experts would need to study its potential implications. "It appears there is no damage," Krikalev said in an interview broadcast by Russian state television. "But it's up to specialists to assess how we have stressed the station and what the consequences are."

NASA emphasized Wednesday that the station was operating normally and noted that the spin was within safety limits for its systems.

Thrusters on Russia's Nauka laboratory module fired shortly after the module arrived at the International Space Station on Thursday, making the orbiting outpost slowly spin about one-and-a-half revolutions. Russia's mission controllers fired thrusters on another Russian module and a Russian cargo ship attached to the space station to stop

rotation and then push the station back to its normal position.

Both U.S. and Russian space officials said the station's seven-person crew wasn't in danger during the incident.

The station needs to be properly aligned to get the maximum power from solar panels and to maintain communications with space support teams back on Earth. The space station's communications with ground controllers blipped out twice for a few minutes on Thursday.

NASA said in a tweet Tuesday that the station was 45 degrees out of alignment when Nauka's thrusters were still firing and the loss of control was discussed with the crew. "Further analysis showed total attitude change before regaining normal attitude control was (tilde)540 degrees," NASA said.

On Wednesday, NASA noted that "continued analysis following last week's event with unplanned thruster firings on Nauka has shown the space station remains in good shape with systems performing normally."

"Most importantly, the maximum rate and acceleration of the attitude change did not approach safety limits for station systems and normal operations resumed once attitude control was regained," it said.

Roscosmos' Krikalev, a veteran of six space missions who spent a total of 803 days in orbit, noted Wednesday that firing orientation engines created a dynamic load on the station's components, making a thorough analysis of whether some of them could be overstressed necessary.

"The station is a rather delicate structure, and both the Russian and the U.S. segments are built as light as possible," he said. "An additional load stresses the drivers of solar batteries and the frames they are mounted on. Specialists will analyze the consequences. It is too early to talk about how serious it was, but it was an unforeseen situation that requires a detailed study."

Krikalev said Nauka's engines fired because a glitch in the control system mistakenly assumed that the lab module hadn't yet docked at the station and activated the thrusters to pull it away.

The launch of the 22-ton (20-metric-ton) module has been repeatedly delayed by technical problems. It was initially scheduled to go up in 2007, but funding problems pushed the launch back, and in 2013 experts found contamination in its fuel system, resulting in a long and costly replacement. □

Facebook shuts out NYU academics' research on political ads

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**

Facebook has shut down the personal accounts of a pair of New York University researchers and shuttered their investigation into misinformation spread through political ads on the social network.

Facebook says the researchers violated its terms of service and were involved in unauthorized data collection from its massive network. The academics, however, say the company is attempting to exert control on research that paints it in a negative light. The NYU researchers with the Ad Observatory Project had for several years been looking into Facebook's Ad Library, where searches can be done on advertisements running across Facebook's products.

The access was used to "uncover systemic flaws in the Facebook Ad Library, to identify misinformation in political ads, including many sowing distrust in our election system, and to study Facebook's apparent amplification of partisan misinformation," said Laura Edelson, the lead researcher behind NYU Cybersecurity for Democracy, in a statement.

Facebook's action against the NYU project also cut off other researchers and journalists who got access to Facebook data through the project, Edelson said.

The researchers offered Facebook users a web browser plug-in tool that let them volunteer their data showing how the social network targets political ads.

But Facebook said the browser extension was programmed to evade its detection systems and vacuum up user data, creating privacy concerns.

In a blog post late Tuesday, Facebook said it takes "unauthorized data scraping seriously, and when we find instances of scraping we investigate and take action to protect our platform."

Facebook sent a cease-and-desist letter to Edelson



In this March 29, 2018, file photo, the logo for Facebook appears on screens at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

and another researcher, Damon McCoy, in October but didn't shut down their accounts until Tuesday, hours after Edelson informed the platform that she and McCoy were studying the spread of disinformation on the platform about the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, the researchers said.

Mike Clark, Facebook product management director, wrote in the blog

post that the Menlo Park, California, company welcomes research that holds it accountable but that doesn't compromise the security of the platform or users' privacy.

"While the Ad Observatory project may be well-intentioned, the ongoing and continued violations of protections against scraping cannot be ignored and should be remediated," he wrote. □

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George Harrison's 'All Things Must Pass' hits a milestone

By **MARK KENNEDY**
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — George Harrison's landmark album "All Things Must Pass" is celebrating its belated 50th anniversary and the former Beatles' son thinks a new remixed collection might make the perfect post-pandemic soundtrack.

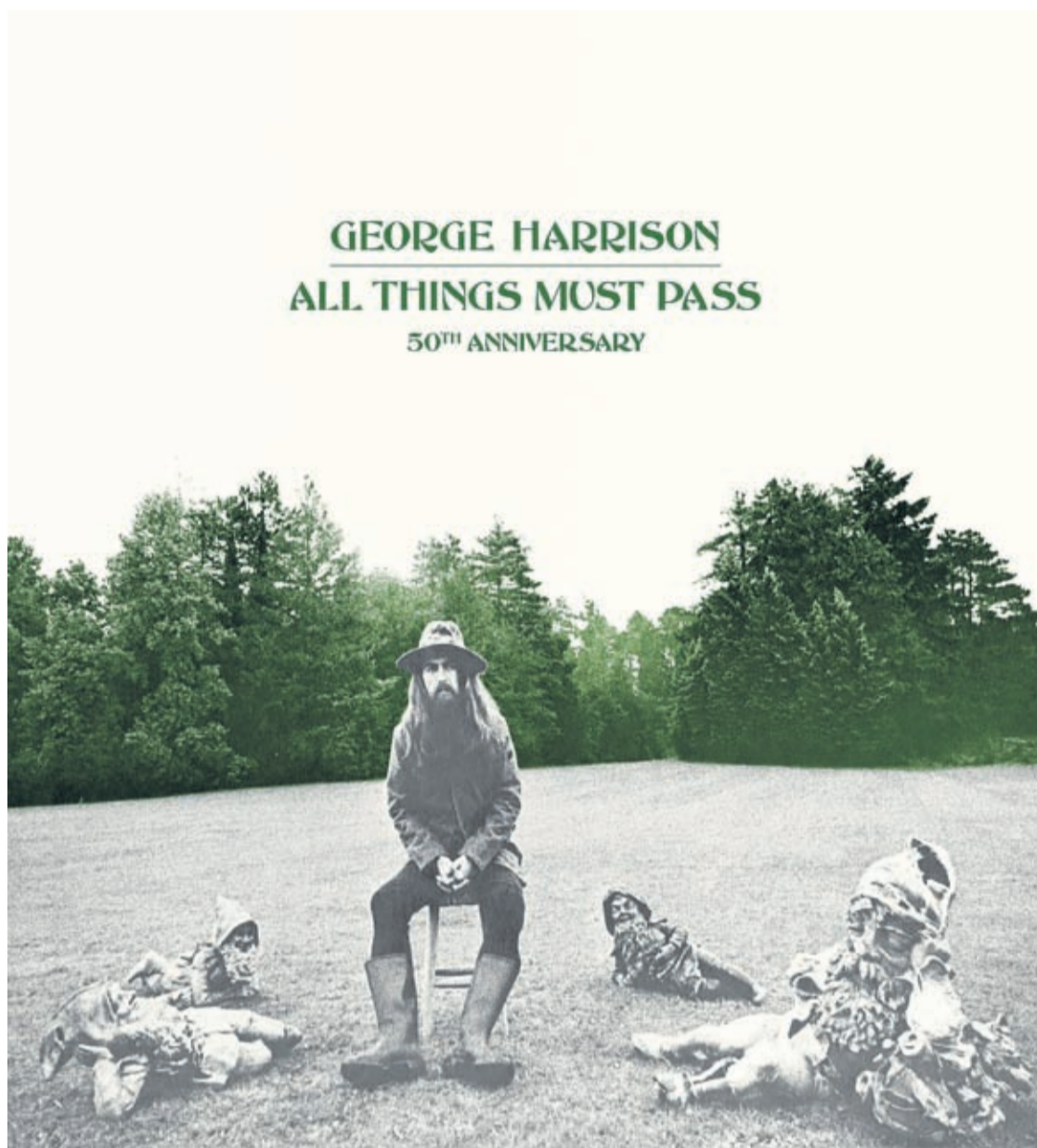
"I think that the message of this record is more ready to be received now than it was when it first came out," said Dhani Harrison. "The message is clearer and now it's sonically clearer. This is a really important bit of music."

The original collection was audacious for its time — the first triple studio album in rock history, a virtual flurry of vinyl. The anniversary editions out this week make that look quaint, containing eight LPs (or five CDs) plus a Blu-ray audio disc, with the remixed album, demos, outtakes and jams. There are reprinted archival notes, track annotations, photos and memorabilia. The most expensive edition comes in its own wooden crate, complete with figurines of the famous garden gnomes featured on the album cover. But first is the music, which Rolling Stone lists among the 500 greatest albums of all time.

"We're not trying to make it sound modern," said triple Grammy Award-winning engineer Paul Hicks. "I'm not trying to put any sort of stamp on it. We are very respectful to the mixes that were there and follow them as much as possible."

The skeleton of "All Things Must Pass" was recorded over two days in late May 1970. On May 26, Harrison record 15 songs backed by Ringo Starr and his long-time friend, bassist Klaus Voormann. The next day, he played an additional 15 songs for co-producer Phil Spector on just an acoustic guitar.

The original 23-track album — complete with hits "Isn't It a Pity," "What Is Life" and "My Sweet Lord" — has been remixed for the anniversary editions from Capitol/UMe and are now augmented with 47 demos and



GEORGE HARRISON
ALL THINGS MUST PASS
50TH ANNIVERSARY

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Associated Press

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The 1970 session tapes produced 25 hours of music, including several songs that didn't make the album like "Cosmic Empire," "Going Down To Golders Green," "Dehra Dun," "Sour Milk Sea," and "Mother Divine." Dhani Harrison and Hicks started work on the anniversary editions five years ago, re-digitizing and listening to every song and every take made during the sessions. It was an ever deeper dive than the 30th and 40th anniversary reissues. Hicks calls the new work "forensic."

They emerged from the vault with some 110 different songs and Harrison and his team had to decide how to present what he'd found. He recalled once listening to a Beach Boys box set that had 10 versions of

every song and didn't want to go that route.

Instead, he wanted to bring the listener into the recording process to hear how the songs had evolved. "What we were looking for was the ones that really stood out and that really screamed something new," said Harrison.

Listeners familiar with the album track "Let It Down" — a dynamic tune that got the Spector Wall of Sound treatment and resembles a James Bond theme — may be stunned to hear the stripped down, heartfelt acoustic demo version Harrison recorded on Day 2.

There's a slowed-down version of "Isn't It a Pity" that's even sadder than the album version, and a sublime version of "Art of Dying" that's arguably better than the final. Some songs got sped up and some

got slower during the process, potentially blowing the mind of anyone who thought the final versions were somehow the only way to play them.

"Once you hear it, you can't unhear it. It does change the way you hear the whole record forever. But it doesn't ruin the experience of knowing the record," said Harrison.

A very human George Harrison — who died at age 58 in 2001 — can also be heard in the mix. He's captured asking for orange juice — while playing a very cool version of "Get Back." His "Going Down to Golders Green" is Harrison doing his very best Elvis impression, a real treat. There's also Harrison's recording of "It's Johnny's Birthday," a gift to mark John Lennon's 30th birthday.

The demos reveal the ori-

gin of a very rootsy "Woman Don't You Cry For Me," which would become the opening track of his 1976 album, "Thirty Three & 1/3." And during the 14th take of "Isn't It a Pity," a fed-up artist goes off-script to instead sing: "Isn't it a pain/Why we do so many takes?"

Harrison and Hicks have dubbed Disc 5, which contains session outtakes and jams, the "party disc." "We wanted to show that the guys were having fun," said Hicks. "It's emotionally a very heavy album. It touches on a lot of deep subjects. So we really wanted to show a lighter side to some of the content."

Harrison collected quite a roster of musicians to help him on "All Things Must Pass," including Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan, Ringo Starr, Billy Preston, Delaney and Bonnie Bramlett, Pete Drake and even a young Phil Collins (whose bongo work never made the album).

"It was a pretty mean squad of people that he recruited, you know what I mean? Like, he wasn't messing around with this record," said Harrison.

The younger Harrison also investigated stories behind the songs, like the album opener, "I'd Have You Any Time." He learned that Clapton struggled at times to play Harrison's notes. "It was incredible to hear Eric say how hard it was because that's a guy that doesn't find playing guitar very hard."

The "All Things Must Pass" recording sessions began just six weeks after the April 1970 announcement of The Beatles' break-up and the younger Harrison notes that his father was going through a lot during that time: In addition to the band's break-up, he lost his mother and he was also leaving a lover.

"It's a family time capsule and there's so much love in it," said Dhani Harrison. "He was brave to do this when he did it. It's lightning in a bottle."

I don't think that those conditions come around maybe once in a lifetime for an artist." □

Native Hawaiians 'reclaim' surfing with Moore's Olympic gold

By SALLY HO

Carissa Moore wore a white and yellow plumeria pinned next to her ear for her victory-lap interviews after making history as the first Olympic gold medalist at surfing's historic debut. Her mother — crowned the Honolulu Lei Queen in 2016 — had given her the flower hair clip before she left for Tokyo to remind the only Native Hawaiian Olympic surfer of where she came from.

At this pinnacle point, Moore is still in disbelief when she's compared to Duke Kahanamoku, the godfather of modern surfing who is memorialized in Hawaii with a cherished monument.

"I don't think I'll have a statue," Moore said, grinning from ear to ear while her body bobbed into a quiet giggle at the suggestion. "Gosh, there's only a few people in Hawaii that I think deserve that."

As celebrated at home as she is loved by fans and peers around the world, it was a characteristically modest statement from one of the world's greatest surfers after she took home gold in the sport's inaugural Olympic competition.

The methodical Moore found her rhythm with the ocean to deliver the kind of standout, power-surfing performance that has defined her career. The picture-perfect ending even included a rainbow that popped into the sky as she shredded waves in the final against South African rival Bianca Buitendag.

Moore has now become a realization of Kahanamoku's dream, at once the symbol of the sport's very best and a validating force for an Indigenous community that still struggles with its complex history. "It's a reclaiming of that sport for our native community," said Kūhiō Lewis, president of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, which convenes the largest annual gathering of Native Hawaiians.

Lewis said all the locals he knew were texting each other during the competition, glued to the TV and elated, even relieved, by Moore's "surreal" win. He called it a "come to home moment" for a community that may never reconcile its dispossession.

After centuries of colonization by various European settlers, Hawaii was an-



In this July 27, 2021, file photo, Carissa Moore, of the United States, competes during the gold medal heat in the women's surfing competition at the 2020 Summer Olympics at Tsurigasaki beach in Ichinomiya, Japan.

Associated Press

nexed by the United States in 1898 after the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy by U.S.-backed forces in 1893.

"At times, we're an invisible people. We're lumped in to other ethnic groups. Our sport is being defined by other groups. This puts it into perspective," Lewis said. "It feels like an emerging of a people, of a native community that has been invisible to many."

All eyes were on Moore when the Tokyo Games began, not only because she was the medal favorite as the reigning world cham-

pion but also because she was competing for the United States. Until then, Moore had always surfed for Hawaii in the professional World Surf League, which recognizes it as a "sovereign surfing nation."

Moore is biracial and grew up in the only majority Asian American and Pacific Islander state in the United States. Her white father, of Irish and German ancestry, taught her how to surf. Her mother is ethnically Native Hawaiian and Filipino and was adopted and raised in a Chinese-American family. "I'm proud

to be representing the USA, but specifically the islands of Hawaii because there are just so many different kinds of people there, and I feel like such a connection to all of them," Moore said. "And I wouldn't be where I am today without the community of people that have really raised me."

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii this week honored both Moore and Kahanamoku on the Senate floor.

"There's a saying that the best surfer is the person having the most fun and that's unquestionably the case with Carissa," Schatz said. "She's an intense competitor who wants to win every event she enters, but also one who wants to see her opponents — and more importantly the sport of surfing itself — succeed."

Kahanamoku was among the first athletes to break sports' color barrier as an Olympic swimmer who medaled five times. It was at the 1912 Summer Games in Stockholm that he first pushed the International Olympic Committee to include surfing, though it was virtually unknown outside of his native Hawaii back then. □

Citing knee, Federer out of Toronto, Cincinnati tournaments

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Roger Federer pulled out of the upcoming hard-court tournaments in Toronto and Cincinnati on Thursday, citing lingering issues with his surgically repaired knee and shedding doubt on his status for the U.S. Open.

The withdrawals by Federer, who turns 40 on Sunday, were announced separately by the two events. This news follows the 20-time Grand Slam champion's decision to sit out the Tokyo Olympics after he said he "experienced a setback" with his knee during the grass-court season. Federer has not competed since losing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals to Hubert Hurkacz on July 8.

Play begins at Toronto on Monday, and at Cincinnati on Aug. 16. They traditionally are the two primary tuneups ahead of the U.S. Open, the year's last Grand Slam tournament and scheduled to begin Aug. 30 in New York.

Federer is a seven-time champion in Cincinnati and has won two titles in Canada.

Other players whose withdrawals from Toronto were announced Thursday: Olympic gold medalist Alexander Zverev, Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini, Milos Raonic and Pablo Carreño Busta. Novak Djokovic pulled out last month.

Federer had two operations on his right knee in 2020 and went more

than a full year between matches. He returned to Grand Slam action at the French Open in late May and then pulled out of that tournament after three victories, saying he wanted to be rested and ready for the grass circuit — especially Wimbledon. Before action at the All England club began in late June, Federer was asked about the Olympics and said he would need to wait until after Wimbledon ended to figure out his schedule.

"In previous years, it was definitely easier. At the moment, things are not as simple as in the past," he said at the time. "With age, you have to be more selective. You can't play it all."



In this July 7, 2021, file photo, Switzerland's Roger Federer wipes his brow during the men's singles quarterfinals match against Poland's Hubert Hurkacz on day nine of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

Associated Press

When he later posted on social media that he would miss the Summer Games, Federer wrote: "I have already begun rehabilitation in the hopes of

returning to the tour later this summer."

Federer, Djokovic and Rafael Nadal are tied for the men's record with 20 Slam trophies. □

Analysis: NFL kicks off amid nation's rising COVID-19 rates

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — As COVID-19 and Delta variant positives increase across America, the NFL kicks off its first preseason since 2019 expecting the usual crowds.

The numbers in the nation are of concern to some, staggeringly disappointing to others, and ignored by many. Within the NFL, though, it must be emphasized that the data is encouraging.

The league says more than 90% of its players have either begun or concluded the vaccination process. Nine teams have more than 95% of their players vaccinated, while a total of 27 teams is above 85%.

Yes, there have been some high-profile positive cases, including almost the entire quarterbacks room in Minnesota, but with league and team personnel required to be vaccinated — it remains optional for players — the league's medical community is encouraged and optimistic about the upcoming preseason and regular season.

"With regard to results of testing, we're seeing fewer cases overall with an in-



In this Feb. 7, 2021, file photo, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers offense, left, gets set at the line of scrimmage against the Kansas City Chiefs defense during the second half of the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game in Tampa, Fla.

take (test) than did in 2020, which is more a snapshot of where everyone is as they gather" at training camps, said Dr. Allen Sills, the league's chief medical officer. Noting a "lower incidence rate" for positive COVID-19 tests, Sills added that "would suggest the impact of vaccination. I think that is what is driving this lower incidence of cases.

"We are seeing cases among vaccinated players and they are asymptomatic for many; no one is seriously ill. That speaks to effectiveness of the vaccination.

"There are a very small number of these cases overall and that is despite a tremendous increase in the number of contacts. We are having many, many

more contacts than we did a year ago, and that just suggests despite more exposures we're not seeing an increase in cases."

With that said, and with the NFL's adjustments to protocols that now provide more freedom for vaccinated players, should fans worry about disruptions to the 2021 schedule? Remember, the NFL completed its

regular season and playoffs on time during the heights of the pandemic, when it knew a lot less about COVID-19 and its variants than it does now.

But the league office also has presented the potential for forfeits if unvaccinated players cause an outbreak on a team that forces postponement and cancellation of games — not a comforting development for fans.

Maybe the answer to what might lie ahead comes with the suggested revision made for this week's Pro Football Hall of Fame induction festivities.

County officials in the Canton area have recommended wearing face coverings for all indoor activities, fearing the potential of a "super spreader" event. The hall's Gold Jacket Dinner on Friday night is a traditional sellout and is held inside the Canton Memorial Civic Center, with social distancing almost impossible.

This year's dinner will feature members of three classes — 2020 and 2021, plus a special centennial class — after last summer's event was canceled due to the pandemic. □

Associated Press

Officiating head Al Riveron, NFL's 1st Hispanic ref, retires



In this March 26, 2018, file photo, Al Riveron, NFL senior vice president of officiating, answers a question from a reporter during a news conference announcing rules changes at the NFL owners meetings in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

By **BARRY WILNER**

AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — NFL officiating chief Al Riveron, a Cuban who became

the league's first Hispanic referee, retired Friday.

Riveron worked as an on-field official for nine years and became a member

of the NFL's officiating staff in 2013 as a senior director. He will be replaced by two of the league's senior vice president in officiating, Walter Anderson, a former referee, and Perry Fewell, a former coach.

"Al has been a tremendous advocate for officiating during his distinguished career," Troy Vincent, the NFL's executive vice president of football operations, said in a memo to staff. "We thank Al for his contributions to football and wish him all the best in his retirement."

Riveron, 61, had a tough act to follow. Actually, two.

He succeeded Dean Blandino as head of officiating in 2017. Before Blandino, Mike Pereira held

the job. Both are now with Fox Sports, and both were popular with fans and the media because of their forthrightness and skill explaining officiating decisions. Riveron's personality featured a quiet determination, and he rarely was as open in discussing officiating calls as were Pereira and Blandino.

He also was plagued by the missed call at the end of the 2018 NFC championship game that basically cost the Saints an excellent chance to win and move into the Super Bowl. A pass interference and helmet-to-helmet hit were missed by the officiating crew late in the fourth quarter that could have allowed New Orleans to run down the clock and

kick a winning field goal.

The Rams eventually won the game in overtime, and the NFL adopted more stringent replay and challenge rules on pass interference for the 2019 season. Those rules lasted only one season, not a good look for the league, before they were rescinded — in part because of the inconsistency of calls on pass interference under the new rule.

Anderson became an NFL referee in 1996 and remained on the field through 2019 before moving into the league office. Fewell twice has been an interim head coach — with Buffalo in 2009 and Carolina two years ago. He joined the league officiating office in 2020. □